

Asylees may  
receive certain  
public assistance  
benefits and  
social services  
from the date  
their asylum  
application is  
granted  
final approval.

Inside this brochure  
is a summary of the  
eligibility requirements  
and  
available benefits.



**REFUGEE PROGRAMS BRANCH**

744 P Street, MS 6-646  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**(916) 654-6379**

**(916) 654-7187 (fax)**

*e-mail: [RPB@dss.ca.gov](mailto:RPB@dss.ca.gov)*

*[www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram)*

PUB 370 (1/02)



## Public Benefits for Asylees in California



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

*Gray Davis, Governor*

**HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY**

*Grantland Johnson, Secretary*

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

*Rita Saenz, Director*

## Eligibility

**You may be eligible for benefits if you have received final approval of your asylum application by:**

- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Asylum Office;
- An Immigration Judge; or
- The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)



**You will need one of the following:**

- I-94 Card stamped with “Asylum Approved”;
- Approval letter from the INS Asylum Office; or
- A court order granting asylum



**You are NOT eligible for benefits if you have:**

- An asylum case pending with the INS Asylum Office or an Immigration Judge;
- An asylum case on appeal with the BIA; or
- The INS has reserved the right to appeal an INS Judge’s decision to grant you asylum.

## Benefits

### SOCIAL SERVICES

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Employment Services
- CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and other Social Services



### HEALTH SERVICES

#### Refugee Medical Assistance

- Health assessments and physical examinations performed by a Licensed Health Care Provider
- Medical interpreters and culturally sensitive staff are provided
- Preventive health care, which includes dental screening, Pap smear, and mammograms
- Immunizations that will assist in adjusting status and obtaining green cards
- Blood and skin tests to detect illnesses
- Referrals for identified health conditions
- Translated health education materials and counseling

## Time Limit

**Asylees may be eligible for cash and health benefits for up to eight months from the date asylum is granted and social services for up to 60 months.**

For more information, contact your local county welfare office. For the phone number and location of the welfare office or local health department in your county, you may call the California Department of Social Services’ Refugee Programs Branch at

**(916) 654-6379**

or website at

**[www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram)**